

# TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN

## SARATOGA DE ANZA TRAIL PROJECT

**PREPARED FOR:**

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## INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes operating and maintenance procedures for the De Anza Trail (‘the Trail’), a Class I trail located along an existing Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) right-of-way in Saratoga. The operations and maintenance procedures specified herein constitute the proposed management plan, which has been developed to identify the specific operation and maintenance activities and responsibilities involved with this project. The Trail Management Plan incorporates and implements the project description and mitigation measures in the Initial Study.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The De Anza Trail project would result in the development of an approximately 1.6-mile bike and pedestrian trail extending along a PG&E easement. The 12-foot wide trail would be surfaced with decomposed granite. The project also includes focused trail corridor improvements, including a five-space parking area and trail staging site with access from Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road, re-vegetation along the trail as needed, and two bridges—one over Rodeo Creek and one over Saratoga Creek. The trail would connect to existing bike lanes along Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road, Cox Avenue, and Saratoga Avenue.

## TRAIL MANAGEMENT

The objective of this management plan is to ensure that the Trail is managed and maintained in a way that maximizes safety and functionality for trail users. The Parks and Trails Master Plan (1991) provides guidance on many of these subjects and is cited (‘P&TM’) where appropriate.

## TRAIL MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES

The City of Saratoga will serve as the designated Trail Manager for this project and will be responsible for operating the Trail. The following sections address specific operating procedures and responsibilities.

### Trail Use Regulations

The purpose of Trail regulations is to promote user safety and enhance the enjoyment of all users. Trail use regulations will be posted at main access points. Establishing that the Trail facility is a regulated traffic environment like other public rights-of-way is critical for compliance and often results in a facility requiring minimal enforcement. Appropriate civil statutes and

penalties will be referenced on regulatory signs other than basic traffic control signage such as speed limit signs.

**Under existing state and local laws the following regulations will apply to the Trail:**

No trespassing during hours Trail is closed

No trespassing on UPRR and adjacent private property owner property

All relevant provisions of the City municipal code, including but not limited to, sections 6-15.050-080; section 6-15.140, section 7-30.050, section 9-60.040, section 11-05.030 addressing conduct in parks and public places shall apply, and section 11-05.040 prohibiting motorized vehicles in parks.

Pets must always be on short leashes

**Pursuant to the Trail Management Plan, the following regulations will apply to the Trail:**

Hours of use: sunrise to sunset

Keep to the right except when passing (P&TMP 3.7-1)

Yield to on-coming traffic when passing

Bicycles always yield to pedestrians

Give an audible warning when passing

Travel no more than two abreast

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the Trail

20 mph speed limit

Bicycles to yield to maintenance vehicles

Trail subject to closure for maintenance

Enforcement of civil regulations will be by the City of Saratoga Code Enforcement Officer and the Santa Clara Sheriff's Department.

**Trail Maintenance Plan**

Proper maintenance of the Trail is of utmost importance for the productive use of the facility and the protection of the financial investment the community has made in the Trail. The following list represents suggested maintenance practices to be followed by the City (see also P&TMP 4.2-1).

**Table 1: Trail Maintenance Activities and Frequencies**

Item	Estimated Frequency
Shoulder and grass mowing	As needed (3 times per year average)
Trash pickup/disposal	Weekly
Path surface repair	As needed
Graffiti removal	Immediately or within 24 hours of discovery
Trail litter	Monthly - annually as needed
Weed control	Monthly - as needed
Sign replacement/repair	As needed

The Trail project includes limited landscaping and amenities (e.g., signage and maps) provided as part of the project at the northern trailhead only. City maintenance responsibility will be limited to the Trail and Trail elements only (see table above), and will not include any other features.

As City staff will travel the trail on a regular basis they will note items needing repair—also the bike trail users can inform the City if problems are identified.

**Security and Public Safety**

Studies by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy indicate that the frequency and character of crime and other problems on trails is generally similar to that of the adjoining communities. These studies have also shown that the best and most effective method of enhancing safety and security is to design a functional facility that is well used by the general public. Trails in isolated locations exist around the Bay Area (including Santa Clara County) and California and have not experienced significant safety problems. The approach to safety and security outlined in this plan is to provide reasonable security features and be prepared to enhance those efforts in the future if safety and security prove to be problems.

Hours of Operation: The Trail will be open for use between sunrise and sunset.

Signage: Installation of standardized regulatory signs at regular intervals along the Bike Trail will help users internalize the rules. This could include “Bicyclists Yield to Pedestrians,” “Pass on the Left,” “Slower Traffic Stay Right” and speed limits (if applicable).

Patrols and Enforcement: Based on similar trails nationwide, the Trail is expected to be generally self-enforcing by the general public. The City staff (or contractors) will patrol the trail on an as-

needed basis, reporting issues to the City's Code Enforcement Officer and the County Sheriff's Office as they are encountered. The ultimate level of patrols will be based on reported incidents and problems (P&TMP 4.2-2).

Security Features: The City shall provide the following security measures:

1. Provide emergency services (e.g. fire protection, code enforcement, Sheriff patrols) with a map of the trail, along with vehicle access points.
2. Maintain site vegetation along the trail to maximize visibility.
3. Enforce speed limits and other rules of the road.
4. Provide adequate access to the trail to minimize trespassing.
5. Provide 'No Trespassing' signs along the City/UPRR property line every 200 feet (P&TMP 4.2-2).

### **Emergency Response and Access**

Emergency access for safety, security, or maintenance purposes will be based on an established protocol between City of Saratoga fire department and the Santa Clara County Sheriff. The initial responding party will notify the other departments as soon as possible. The Trail itself is designed to allow emergency vehicles full access to the facility and adequate vehicular access/egress.